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*The giant South Korean conglomerate, Daewoo, has leased a vast tract of land in Madagascar to help secure the country's access to food supplies. Daewoo Logistics has leased an area half the size of Belgium on which it will grow food crops. Martin Plaut reports:*

Daewoo says it will grow corn and palm oil on **huge tracts** of Madagascan farmland that the company has **leased** for 99 years. This **ambitious** scheme will cover 1.2 million hectares and is part of South Korea's plans to ensure **its access to food supplies** in the coming years.

The scheme is **designed** to provide more than half the country's imports of corn when it's **fully operational** in fifteen years' time.

A number of Asian countries have been attempting to ensure their access to food supplies since **unrest** over food **broke out** earlier this year. And some African countries have been keen to receive overseas investment. Angola has offered farmland for development and Ethiopia's Prime Minister, Meles Zenawi, said he **is eager to see** foreign companies **take a stake** in his country's agriculture.

Martin Plaut, BBC

## Vocabulary and definitions

<b>huge tracts</b>	a large area of land
<b>leased</b>	made a legal agreement by which money is paid to use something (here, land) for an agreed period
<b>ambitious</b>	big/grand and difficult to achieve
<b>its access to food supplies</b>	it has enough food
<b>designed</b>	created with a certain aim
<b>fully operational</b>	working to its full capacity, delivering all it can
<b>unrest</b>	here, showing discontent
<b>broke out</b>	started (normally used to talk about something unpleasant or even dangerous)
<b>is eager to see</b>	wants (something to happen) badly
<b>take a stake</b>	get financially involved, put their money

**More on this story:** <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/business/7737643.stm>

**Read and listen to the story and the vocabulary online:**

[http://www.bbc.co.uk/worldservice/learningenglish/newsenglish/witn/2008/11/081121\\_skorea\\_madagascar.shtml](http://www.bbc.co.uk/worldservice/learningenglish/newsenglish/witn/2008/11/081121_skorea_madagascar.shtml)